III. REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-22 and 25-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 9 and 22 are independent claims. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 12 and incompleteness, respectively. The Examiner objected to informalities in Claim 12.

A. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

According to the Examiner, it is not clear to what the claim term "operators" refers in claim 1, lines 4 and 5. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for indefiniteness. The present invention relates to methods of searching and filtering electronic information. In the relevant art, the term "operator" is a well known term of art for The specification is rife with descriptions of the term "operators," that more than sufficiently enable a person of ordinary skill. For example, the specification describes one preferred embodiment where the the operator can take any of several forms that are well known in the art:

> The operator 220 extracts information from the data source to which it is coupled. The operator 220 may also trigger a variety of functions based on the extracted information. For example, the operator 220 may be as simple as i) a logical combination of text words, ii) a function to extract entities such as places or proper names, iii) recognizing audio or video data structures, iv) recognizing pictures or graphics structures, or v) a network itself in which functions are performed based on the extraction of a particular quantity or type of information or vi) a cluster function. Here, operator 220 is a scored filter. A scored filter is created by initially generating a query such as shown in figure 7. Figure 7 is a function box in which the query, or profile, such as "want to buy a GM" is typed or otherwise created. This profile is then parsed for terms using the same process as used in parsing subdocuments described above. Any arbitrary document feature may constitute a term. Once parsed, a lexicon for terms may be used to modify or expand the term list. After the term list has been generated, it is then scored against the subdocuments in the source database 212.[1]

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[1] Application at p.11, line 18 - p.12, line 7.

The specification describes the term "operator" in further detail in another example:

> Operators 220 and 230 are scored type filters. However, other types of operators may be used in addition to or interchangeably with them. In figure 2, for example, operation 240 is an RDB type filter. It is selected from a list of RDB filters which is chosen by clicking on RDB button 236.[2]

Applicant respectfully suggests that these and other descriptions of the term "operator" enable a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art to make, use or practice the invention without undue experimentation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for omitting the "essential steps" of "creating a plurality of output indicators corresponding to each of said operators on said visual representation of said network, wherein said output indicators visually represent a quantified of said corresponding operators."[3] Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claim 12 is a depends from claim 11, which depends from 10, which depends from independent claim 9. Independent claim 9 includes the steps of creating a plurality of output indicators corresponding to each of said operators on said visual representation of said network, wherein said output indicators visually represent a quantified output of said corresponding operators. Since dependent claim 12 includes all of the elements of independent claim 9, claim 12 has not omitted the "essential steps" identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

B. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to the use of the claim term "database" in line 7 of claim 1, claiming that the use of the term in line 1 creates confusion with the term "database" that is used in lines 8 and 9. Applicant respectfully traverses the objection, for reasons that the Applicant

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[2] Application at p. 15, lines 15-19.

[3] Office Action, Paper No. 11, p. 2.

believes are clear from the language of the claim. The use of the term "database" is necessary in line 7 of claim 1, where the method of the present invention analyzes a data source to detect whether the data source is a data stream or a database. If the data source does in fact include a database, then the previously selected operators—which have been linked into a network—are evaluated against a database, which clearly can include the database included in the data source. On the other hand, when the data source is a data stream, then a data unit is evaluated against an operator. In other words, a database data source is evaluated against database, whereas a data stream data source results in a data unit being evaluated against an operator. Since the claim requires evaluating a database against a database, the term is properly used in both lines of the claim.
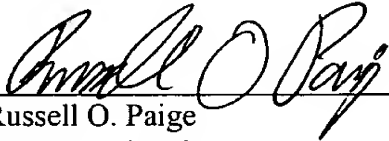
If the Examiner can point to a prior amendment or any other source that clarifies the need for amending the claim, Applicant would appreciate a telephone call, and would be willing to consider an Examiner's Amendment. Absent such an Examiner's Amendment however, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be removed.

Finally, Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct the misspelled term "operators" in line 9 of claim 1, thus overcoming the Examiner's objection regarding same.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests reversal of the rejection of claims 1 and 12, and asks that

the claims be permitted issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

Russell O. Paige
Reg. No. 40,758

Jones Day
51 Louisiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001-2113
Tel. (202) 879-3939

Date: March 17, 2004